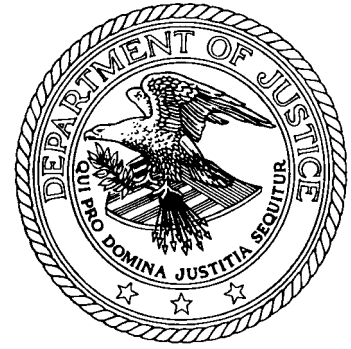


# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - February 10, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego handed up a four-count indictment charging Erick Carrillo Ruvalcaba and Rosario Vega Valenzuela with conspiracy to import marijuana, importation of marijuana, conspiracy to distribute marijuana, and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. According to the indictment, Erick Carrillo Ruvalcaba and Rosario Vega Valenzuela conspired to import and distribute approximately 5,332.99 kilograms (11,732.57 pounds) of marijuana on January 28, 2005. Each count of the indictment carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$4,000,000.00, a mandatory special assessment of \$100.00 per count, and a five-year term of supervised release.

According to court documents, defendant Carrillo Ruvalcaba drove his tractor-trailer, containing approximately 5332.99 kilograms of marijuana, into the United States through the Otay Mesa Commercial Port of Entry. Carrillo Ruvalcaba presented a manifest claiming that he was transporting machinery and was referred for X-ray inspection. Carrillo bypassed the x-ray inspection and attempted to leave the Port with a manifest for glass flower vases. That manifest had been previously used by Carrillo and had been marked

approved for release from the Port of Entry earlier the same day. A Customs and Border Protection border search revealed the 5332.99 kilograms of marijuana contained within the trailer. Defendant Vega Valenzuela also drove a tractor-trailer through the Otay Mesa Commercial Port of Entry on January 28, and presented a manifest claiming that he was transporting machinery, which closely matched the cargo on Carrillo's original manifest. It is alleged that Carrillo Ruvalcaba and Vega Valenzuela planned to alter the manifests in order to avoid inspection.

The defendants were arraigned on the indictment earlier today before the United States Magistrate Judge Louisa S. Porter. The next scheduled court appearance is March 18, 2005 at 10:30 a.m., before the Honorable John A. Houston, United States District Court Judge.

United States Attorney Lam praised the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which made the arrest and seizure at the Otay Mesa Commercial Port of Entry.

### **DEFENDANTS**

Erick Carrillo Ruvalcaba	Tijuana, Mexico
Rosario Vega Valenzuela	Tijuana, Mexico

### **SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

COUNT 1	Conspiracy to Import Marijuana, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, § 952, 960 and 963
COUNT 2	Importation of Marijuana, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, § 952, 960
COUNT 3	Conspiracy to Distribute Marijuana, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, § 846 and 841(a)(1)
COUNT 4	Possession of Marijuana with intent to distribute, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, § 841(a)(1)

### **AGENCY**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security

**An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**